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HEADWATERS

Headwaters Target of European Exploration

Competition for Control of a Continent

Since the 1500s European nations considered the Headwaters of the Missouri River the key to wealth for their expanding economies—first as an avenue to the Orient, then as an access route to North America's furs and minerals.

Competition for control of a passage across North America began in 1541 when Spain's Coronado first heard of a mighty river to the north (the Missouri). DeSoto's discovery of the Mississippi River in the same decade convinced the Spanish that these two waterways were the fabled Northwest Passage to the Pacific. Over a century later, in 1673, Marquette and Joliet of French Canada finally located the junction of the Mississippi and the Missouri, adding to European certainty that the highway to riches had been found. Legends of golden cities, mountains of gold, and salt strange uncouth tribes and fearless Amazons living at the Headwaters propelled explorers further and further up the river. By the 1740s, the French De la Verendrye brothers had reached the Black Hills of Dakota.



Louisiana Purchase

By this time, Spain's control of the continent had faltered in the face of French and British competition. Then, in the French and Indian War of the 1760s, the British eliminated the French as serious competitors by winning from them the upper Mississippi basin and the Northwest Territories.

The American Revolution

The struggle didn't stop, however, because the British and their colonists in America had developed two completely different ideas about how to use the vast continent.



The fur trade brought these famous men to the Headwaters area.

The British wanted to reserve the interior as a fur trade monopoly and passed laws forbidding the colonists to buy land or to settle west of The Appalachians. The Atlantic colonists, however, were settlers who were determined to inhabit the land. They didn't intend to remain a coastal empire and give up the wealth of their own continent. This difference of opinion was one of the causes of the American Revolution.

France and Spain saw a chance to regain some influence in North America and joined the Revolution as allies of the colonists. These two countries thought that if the revolt were successful, the new American nation would be small, puny, and easy to contain along the Atlantic coast, while France and Spain could resume control of the land west of the Appalachians. England lost the war, but refused to surrender the Northwest Territories and the Mississippi basin to her European rivals. Because England recognized that a strong United States would weaken French and Spanish ambitions in the New World, she ceded the lands beyond the Appalachian Mountains to the United States.

Spain became wary of the intentions of her former ally, the United States, far from being a weakling, had suddenly doubled in size and was crowding the borders of Spain's Louisiana colony. Attempting to cripple the new nation, Spain closed the port of New Orleans and the Mississippi River to U.S. shipping and commerce shortly after the end of the war.

The Louisiana Purchase

America didn't know much about the country beyond the Mississippi, but recognized that the nation's economic existence west of the Appalachians depended on the Mississippi River highway. An unfriendly Spain on the western borders posed a serious threat to economic survival. In 1795, America achieved a diplomatic victory, the Spanish reopened New Orleans and the Mississippi to U.S. trade. By this action, Spain conceded that she was too weak to withstand the pressure of American westward expansion.

The Spanish did make one last attempt to keep the United States east of the Mississippi. Louisiana was

(Continued on Page 4)

HERALD

PLEASE RETURN

Published by the Montana Department of Fish and Game for your information and enjoyment of the Missouri Headwaters State Park

Written, compiled and edited by George Clark, Historic Site Consultant, Division of Parks

Gallatin City on the MOVE

Gold Discovered!

In the 1860s, gold was discovered in Colorado, Idaho and Montana, and flood of emigrants poured into the Northern Rockies. Mining camps with names like Bannack, Virginia City and Last Chance Gulch sprang up in western Montana.

Fortunes were not only made with pick and shovel; often larger ones were made by those who could supply and feed the hungry miners. One group of enterprising Missourians realized that existing freight routes into Bannack and Virginia City from Utah were long, arduous and uncertain. An easier route lay to the northwest—the Missouri River. By 1860, steamboats were beginning regular service to Fort Benton; if their service could be extended up to the Three Forks of the Missouri, it would then take only two or three days of easy overland travel to reach the gold camps.



Gallatin City Hotel, 1871.

navigable to commercial shipping; steamboats could never reach Gallatin City. The error was soon discovered and the town was gradually deserted. Some of the cabins were moved to established farms on the south bank of the river where a small community—also called Gallatin City—was incorporated February 2, 1867.

This second Gallatin City experienced brief prosperity. Its ferry became a busy link from the booming gold towns of Virginia City and Bannack to Last Chance Gulch (Helena). Food and wheat from Gallatin City farmers was much less expensive and more readily available for the gold camps than the supplies which had to be shipped in from "the States." At its height in the early 1870s, Gallatin City would boast of a grist mill, several stores, a hotel, a fairground and even a racetrack.

But the good days were fleeting ones. The ferry provided unreliable passage across the river; by 1871 several bridges had been constructed at more convenient points up the river. The neighboring town of Bozeman attracted more and more settlers and by the late 1870s perceptive Gallatin City merchants were disposing of their properties. The final blow was dealt by the railroad which came in 1883, bypassing Gallatin City by two miles.



City at the Headwaters

In 1862, the Missourians organized the Gallatin Town Company and received permission to navigate to the Three Forks. By January, 1863, a town named Gallatin City had been laid out on the north bank of the combined Madison-Jefferson rivers, opposite the mouth of the Gallatin. The town was speculative venture; the founders hoped it would become the commercial capital of the region. They had neglected, however, to realize that the Great Falls, about 150 miles downstream, made the Missouri un-

Fort Rock Site of Annual Rendezvous

Indians of Headwaters

According to Crow tradition, mountain and river water bats met at the Headwaters for an annual rendezvous. Their name for this area was "where the rivers come together". Three Forks old-timers report that Indian tribes would camp on top of Fort Rock for several weeks each year while hunting and fishing, and would trade buffalo robes and furs for flour and feed at the Thomas-Frederick Mill.

TRAPPER MAKES MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

Colter Stays West

The year was 1806. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was heading down the Missouri on its way back to civilization. The group met two trappers—Dickson and Hancock—who were on their way west to the rich beaver country. The two persuaded one member of the Expedition, 35-year-old John Colter, to accompany them.

The three spent the winter of 1806-1807 trapping by the Yellowstone River. Following a quarrel with his partners, Colter left in the spring and once again made his way down the Missouri. At its junction with the Platte River, he met a large party of trappers, the newly-formed Missouri Fur Company headed by Manuel Lisa. The company included several veterans of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: George Drouillard, John Potts and Peter Wiser. The group intended to establish a trading post on the Yellowstone at the mouth of the Bighorn and felt that Colter's previous experience in the area would be invaluable. Colter was easily persuaded to fall in with his old companions and headed up the Missouri again.

Arriving at the Bighorn in October 1807, the trappers built their post. They sent men to the surrounding country to contact local tribes of Indians, tell them about the post and invite them in to trade. This seemingly peaceful mission turned out to be the first of John Colter's amazing travels through the Rocky Mountains.

Yellowstone Geysers Discovered
Struggling through heavy snows and frigid temperatures of a Montana winter, Colter's journey took him to the smoking geyser basins in the vicinity of present-day Cody, Wyoming (which later became known as Colter's Hell) through the Wind River Mountains to the Tetons, then up past Yellowstone Lake and possibly through the Lamar Valley near what is now Cooke City. John Colter was thus the first white person to see the wonders of Yellowstone Park, but his accounts of the geological oddities sounded so far-fetched that he was the butt of many a mountain man's jokes for years afterward.

Passing the summer at the Bighorn, Colter traveled west in the fall of 1808 toward the Missouri Headwaters with a band of Crow and Flathead Indians. One day's journey from the Three Forks, Blackfeet attacked the party. Wounded in the leg, Colter managed to survive, but the Blackfeet noted his presence with the Crow. This set the pattern of Blackfeet hostility toward whites in the Headwaters area, an antagonism which lasted for sixty years.

Colter at the Headwaters

This encounter with the Blackfeet didn't discourage the trapper from returning to the Headwaters. In later years, John Colter told of his adventure to John Bradbury, whose account is reprinted below:

"This man came to St. Louis in May, 1810, in a small canoe, from the head waters of the Missouri, a distance of three thousand miles, which he traversed in thirty days. I saw him on his arrival, and received from him an account of his adventures after he had

separated from Lewis and Clark's party, one of these from its singularity, I shall relate."

"Soon after he separated from Dixon, and trapped in company with a hunter named Potts . . .



They were examining their traps early one morning, in a creek about six miles from that branch of the Missouri called Jefferson's Fork, and were ascending in a canoe, when they suddenly heard a great noise, resembling the trampling of animals . . . Colter immediately pronounced it to be occasioned by Indians . . . In a few minutes afterwards their doubts were removed, by a party of Indians making their appearance on both sides of the creek, to the amount of five or six hundred, who beckoned them to come ashore. As retreat was now impossible, Colter turned the head of the canoe to the shore, and at the moment of its touching, an Indian seized the rifle belonging to Potts; but Colter . . . immediately retook it, and handed it to Potts, who remained in the canoe, and on receiving it pushed off into the river. He had scarcely quitted the shore when an arrow was shot at him, and he cried out, "Colter, I am wounded." Colter remonstrated with him on the folly of attempting to escape, and urged him to come ashore. Instead of complying, he instantly levelled his rifle at an Indian, and shot him dead on the spot . . . He was instantly pierced with arrows so numerous, that, to use the language of Colter, "he was made of riddle of."

They now seized Colter, stripped him entirely naked, and began to consult on the manner in which he should be put to death. They were first inclined to set him up as a mark to shoot at, but the chief interfered, and seizing him by the shoulder, asked him if he could run fast?"

Colter's Run

[Colter] knew that he had now to run for his life, with the dreadful odds of five or six hundred against him, and those armed Indians . . . therefore cunningly replied that he was a very bad runner, although he was considered by the hunters as remarkably swift. The chief . . . led Colter out on the prairie three or

four hundred yards, and released him, bidding him to save himself if he could. At that instant sounded the horrid war whoop sounded in the ears of poor Colter, who, urged with the hope of preserving life, ran with a speed at which he was himself surprised. He proceeded toward the Jefferson, having to traverse a plain six miles in breadth, abounding with the prickly pear, on which he was every instant treading with his naked feet. He ran nearly half way across the plain before he ventured to look over his shoulder, when he perceived that the Indians were very much scattered, and that he had gained ground to a considerable distance from the main body; but one Indian, who carried a spear, was not more than a hundred yards from him. He had now run within a mile of them, when he distinctly heard the appalling sound of footsteps behind him, and every instant expected to feel the spear of his pursuer. Again he turned his head, and saw the savage not twenty yards from him. Determined if possible to avoid the expected blow, he suddenly stopped, turned round, and spread out his arms. The Indian, surprised by the suddenness of the action, also attempted to stop, but exhausted with running, he fell whilst endeavouring to throw his spear, which stuck in the ground, and broke in his hand. Colter instantly snatched up the pointed part, with which he pinned him to the earth, and then continued his flight. The foremost of the Indians, on arriving at the place, stopped till others came up to join them, when they set up a hideous yell. Every moment of this time was improved by Colter, who, although fainting and exhausted, succeeded in gaining the skirting of the cottonwood trees, on the borders of the fork, through which he ran, and plunged into the river."

Escape

Fortunately for him, a little below this place there was an island, against the opposite part of which a raft of drift timber had lodged. He dived under the raft, and after several efforts, got his head above water amongst the trunks of trees, covered over with smaller wood to the depth of several feet. Scarcely had he secured himself, when the Indians arrived on the river, screeching and yelling as Colter expressed it, "like so many devils."

... In horrible suspense he remained until night, when hearing no more of the Indians, he dived from under the raft, and swam silently down the river to a considerable distance, when he landed, and traveled by night. Although happy in having escaped from the Indians, his situation was still dreadful: he was completely naked, under a burning sun, the soles of his feet were entirely filled with the thorns of the prickly pear; he was hungry, and had no means of killing game, although he saw abundance around him, and was at least seven days journey from Lisa's Fort, on the Bighorn branch of the Yellowstone River.

These were circumstances under which almost any man would

have despaired. He arrived at the fort in seven days, having subsisted on a root much esteemed by the Indians of the Missouri, now known by naturalists as *psoralea esculenta*.

—From "John Bradbury's Travels in the Interior of America, 1809-1811" in Thwaites, Reuben G., (ed.) *Early Western Travels, 1784-1846*, Vol. V, Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland, 1904.

FUR AND FINS THEN AND NOW

"The only constant is change" has become a cliché of our times. And if Lewis and Clark were to return to the Headwaters, they probably would not recognize it. One hundred seventy years of human activity have inevitably changed the appearance of the land. Plains have become wheat fields, game trails have turned into roads and once-open skies are criss-crossed by power lines.

The physical alteration of the landscape since 1808 is obvious. Less visible are the changes which have occurred in the types of wildlife common to the Headwaters.

BEAVER DISAPPEAR

Lewis and Clark themselves were indirectly responsible for the depletion of the beaver population at the Headwaters. In their diaries they wrote about the "... vast number of beaver in many large dams . . . and the "... immense number of beaver and otter . . . many thousands inhabit the river and creeks near the 3 forks . . ." As the word got around, it was nothing less than an invitation to the fur traders. Less than two years after Lewis and Clark passed through the Three Forks, two members of the Expedition—John Colter and John Potts—were back with their beaver traps in hand. In 1810, three or four dozen trappers of the Missouri Fur Company tried to establish a permanent post here to exploit the wealth of beaver. (They were driven off by the Blackfeet who understandably resented this invasion of their hunting grounds, and by numerous grizzly bear.) As many as 200 trappers a year flocked to the Headwaters regions during the 1830s. The beaver population could not withstand the onslaught, and in 1837 Jim Bridger noted in his diary that "the trappers are not getting the furs per man they used to . . . at the Three Forks."

Here Today . . . ?

Today the beaver are back but changes and human population pressures have depleted other species. Lewis and Clark noted the presence of bighorn sheep and grizzly bear at the Three Forks. Although these species can still be sighted in southwestern Montana, rarely do they appear in the settled valley areas.

However, a patient visitor to the Headwaters Park can see and photograph many animals and birds in their natural setting. White-tailed deer, red fox and coyotes often feed in the fields during the early morning and at dusk. Badger, raccoon and beaver are common along the riverbanks; moose and otter have also been seen.

The area is a birdwatcher's paradise. Ninety different kinds of birds have been identified, including such rare or endangered species as the Bald Eagle, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon and American osprey. East of the Madison River-Jefferson River junction is a large rookery where the great blue

heron and double-crested cormorant nest each summer. Because of the extensive swamp lands, migratory ducks, geese and swans are a common sight in the spring and fall.

The Madison River is one of the nation's blue-ribbon trout streams. At the Headwaters, anglers can try to hook the brown and cutthroat trout, as well as yellow perch, largemouth bass and bluegill.

Lewis and Clark at the Headwaters

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark kept meticulous journals of their travels across the American continent. Reprinted below are excerpts from their diaries which deal with their stay at the Headwaters on the way west in 1805, and Clark's return to the Three Forks in 1806.

Arrival at the Three Forks
[Clark] July 25th Thursday 1805

a fine morning we proceeded on a few miles to the three forks of the Missouri those three forks are nearly of a size, the North fork appears to have the most water and must be considered as the one best calculated for us to ascend.

... on the North Side the Indians have lately Set the Prairies on fire, the Cause I can't account for. I saw one horse track going up the river, about four or 5 days past, after Breakfast (which we made on the ribs of a Buck killed yesterday), I wrote a note informing Capt. Lewis the rout I intended to take, and proceeded on up the main North fork...

[Lewis] Saturday July 27th 1805.—

... We set out at an early hour

and proceeded on but slowly the

current still so rapid that the men

are in a continual state of their

utmost exertion to get on, and

they begin to weaken fast from

this continual state of violent ex-

ertion at 9 A.M. at the junction of the S.E. fork of the Missouri and the country we had added to

extend west and south to be sur-

rounded in every direction with

distant and lofty mountains; sup-

posing this to be the three forks of the Missouri I halted the party on the Lard shore for breakfast, and

walked up the S.E. Fork about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and ascended the point of a

high limestone cliff [Lewis Rock] from whence I commanded a

most perfect view of the

neighboring country... between

the middle and S.E. forks near

their junction with the S.W. fork

there is a handsome site for a

fortification [Fort Rock]; after

making a draught of the connec-

tion and meanders of these

streams I descended the hill and

returned to the party, took

breakfast and ascended the S.

W. fork $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles and encam-

ped at a Lard. bend in a

handsome level smooth plain

just below a bayou, having

passed the entrance to the

middle fork $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, here I

encamped to wait the return of

Capt. Clark and to give the men a

The Three Forks have indeed changed since 1805. The establishment of the Headwaters as Montana's Bicentennial Site in 1976 stands as a monument to the changes—both good and bad—of the past, and perhaps as a reminder to future generations of another cliché: "He who forgets the past is condemned to repeat it."

little rest which seemed absolutely necessary to them.

The Essential Point

[Lewis] Saturday July 27th 1805, cont'd.

... believing this [the Headwaters] to be an essential point in the geography of this western part of the Continent I determined to remain at all events until I obtained the necessary data for fixing it's latitude Longitude &c. after fixing my camp I had the canoes all unloaded and the baggage stowed away and securely covered on shore, and then permitted several men to hunt. I walked down to the middle fork and examined and compared it with the S.W. fork but could not satisfy myself which was the largest stream of the two, in fact they appeared as if they had been cast in the same mould there being no difference in character or size, therefore to call either of these streams the Missouri would be giving it a preference which it's size does not warrant as it is not larger than the other, they are each 90 yds. wide. in these meadows I saw a number of the duckanmallas [rid] with their young which are now nearly grown...

CLARK III

... at 3 P.M. Capt Clark arrived very sick with a high fever on him and much fatigued and exhausted he informed me that he was very sick all last night had a high fever and frequent chills & constant aching pains in all his muscles. this morning notwithstanding his indisposition he pursued his intended rout to the middle fork about 8 miles and finding no recent sign of Indians rested about an hour and came down the middle fork to this place. Capt. C. though himself somewhat bilious and had not had a passage for several days, I prevailed on him to take a dose of Rushes pills, which I have always found sovereign in such cases and to bathe in warm water and rest himself. Capt. C's indisposition was a further inducement for my remaining here a couple of days; I therefore informed the men of my intention, and they put their deer skins in the water in order to prepare them for dressing tomorrow...

Lewis Worried

[Lewis] Saturday July 27th 1805, cont'd.

... we begin to feel considerable anxiety with respect to the Snake Indians; if we do not find them or some other nation who have horses I fear



Lewis and Clark at Three Forks.

the successful issue of our voyage will be very doubtful or at all events much more difficult in its accomplishment. we are now several hundred miles within the bosom of this wild and mountainous country, where game may rationally be expected shortly to become scarce and subsistence precarious without any information with respect to the country not knowing how far these mountains continue, or wher to direct our course to pass them to advantage or intercept a navigable branch of the Columbia or some water course on such an one the probability is that we should not find any timber within these mountains large enough for canoes if we judge from the portion of them through which we have passed, however I still hope for the best, and intend taking a tramp myself in a few days to find these yellow gentlemen; if possible my two principal consolations are that from our present position it is impossible that the S.W. fork can head with the waters of any other river but the Columbia, and that if any Indians can subsist in the form of a nation in these mountains with the means they have of acquiring food we can also subsist...

Rivers Named

[Lewis] Sunday July 28th 1805.

Both Capt. C. and myself corresponded in opinion with respect to the impropriety of calling either of these stream the Missouri and accordingly agreed to name them after the President of the United States and Secretaries of the Treasury and state having previously named one river in honour of the Secretaries of War and Navy. In pursuance of this resolution we called the S.W. fork, that which we meant to ascend, Jefferson's River in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson, the author of our enterprise, the Middle fork we called Madison's River in honor of James Madison, and the S.E. Fork we called Gallatin's River in honor of Albert Gallatin [Gallatin], the two first are 90 yards wide and the last is 70 yards. all these streams run with great velocity and throw out large bodies of water. Gallatin's

River is reather more rapid than either of the others, is not quite as deep but from all appearances may be navigated to a considerable distance. Capt. C. who came down Madison's river yesterday and has also seen Jefferson's some distance thinks Madison's reather the most rapid, but it is not as much so by any means as Gallatin's. the beds of all these streams are formed of smooth pebble and gravel, and their waters perfectly transparent; in short they are three noble streams...

[Lewis] Sunday July 28th 1805, cont'd.

... I had all our baggage spread out by my men, and to day proving warm I had a small boath or booth erected for the comfort of Capt. C. Our leather lodge when exposed to the sun is excessively hot, all those who are not hunting altho' much fatigued are busily engaged in dressing their skins, making mackasons flexing [leggings] &c to make themselves comfortable. the Musquetaos are more than usually troublesome, the knats are not as much so, in the evening about 4 O'Clock the wind blew hard from South West and after some little time brought on a Cloud attended with thunder and Lightning from which we had a fine refreshing shower which cooled the air considerably; the showers continued with short intervals until after dark, in the evening the hunters all returned they had killed 8 deer and 2 Elk, some of the deer were in excellent order...

Sacajawea Captured Near Headwaters

[Lewis] Sunday July 28th 1805, cont'd.

... Our present camp is precisely on the spot that the Snake Indians were encamped at the time the Minnetares of the Knife R. first came in sight of them five years since, from hence they retreated about three miles up Jeffersons river and concealed themselves in the woods, the Minnetares attacked them, killed men, women & a number of horses and made prisoners of all the females and four boys. Sac-oh-gar-weah [sic] Indian woman was one of the female prisoners taken at that time; tho' I cannot discover that she shews any im-

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LEWIS & CLARK (Cont'd.)

motion of sorrow in recollecting this event, or of joy in being restored to her native country; if she has enough to eat and a few trinkets to wear I believe she would be perfectly content anywhere.

Tuesday July 30th 1805.

Capt. Clark being much better this morning and having completed my observations we reloaded our canoes and set out, ascending Jeffersons river. Sharbono, his woman, two invalids, and myself walked through the bottom on the Lard. side of the river about 4 1/2 miles when we again struck it at the place the woman informed us that she was taken prisoner. here we halted until Capt. Clark arrived.

—Excerpted from DeVoto, Bernard, (ed.), *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*, Boston, Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1953.

Clark Returns, 1806

Sunday 13th July 1806

Set out early this morning and proceeded on very well to the entrance of Madicines river at our old Encampment of the 27th. July last at 12 [o'clock] where I found Serg. Pryor and party with the horses, they had arrived at this place one hour before us. his party had killed 6 deer & a white bear. I had all the horses driven across Madicine & gallitines rivers and halted to dine and let the horses feed immediately below the entrance of Gallitine. had all the baggage of the land party taken out of the canoes and after dinner the 6 canoes and the party of 10 men under the direction of Serg. Ordway set out . . .

... My party now consists of the following persons Viz: Sergeant N. Pryor, Jo. Shields, G. Shannon, William Bratton, Labiech, Windsor, H. Hall, Gibson, Interpreter Shabono and wife & child and my man York, with 49 horses and a colt. the horses are very sore and several of them can scarcely proceed on at 5 P.M. I set out from the head of Missouri at the 3 forks, and proceeded on nearly East 4 miles and Encamped on the bank of Gallitine river [near Logan] which is a butiful navigable stream. Saw a large Gange of Elk in the plains and Deer in the river bottoms. I also observe beaver and several otter in gallitine river as I passed along. Gibson kill an otter the fur of which was much longer and whiter than any which I had seen. Willard killed 2 deer this morning, all the meat I had put into the canoes except a sufficiency for supper. The country in the forks between Gallitine & Madisens rivers is butiful leavel plain covered with low grass . . .

... I observe several leading roads which appear to pass to a gap of the mountain in a E. N. E. direction about 18 or 20 miles distant [Flathead Pass] The indian woman [Sacajawea] who has been of great service to me as a pilot through this country recommends a gap in the mountains more south which I shall cross . . .

—Excerpted from Thwaites, Reuben G., (ed.) *The Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806*, Vol. V, Part II, New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1905.

The Mighty Missouri Starts Here

The junction of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers marks the beginning of the Missouri River 2,464 miles above its mouth. The combined Missouri-Mississippi River drainage is one of the world's largest.

The Three Forks has been the goal of many explorers and travelers, but its historical character is as a passage to other places rather than as a location of permanent settlement. The early explorers were sure that the Headwaters would lead directly into the Pacific Ocean, as were Lewis and Clark. Indians and fur trappers moved through the area, stopping only briefly to harvest the plentiful game. Gallatin City was but a wayside stop for people and goods on the road to Helena, Virginia City or Bozeman. Even today, the jumble of transmission lines, railroad tracks and interstate highways are merely passing through, on their way to somewhere else.

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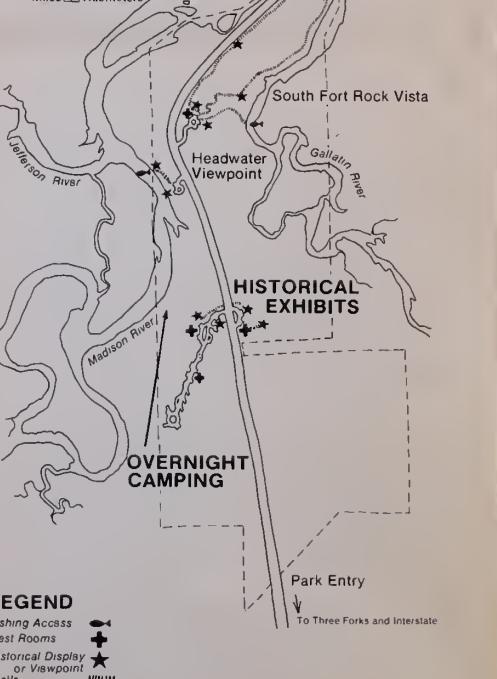
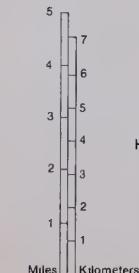
becoming more of a liability than an asset to Spain, which had neither the money nor the men to defend this vast territory from the Americans. But it looked as if France did, and in 1800 Spain turned the Louisiana Territory over to the French government headed by Napoleon Bonaparte.

The United States, recognizing that Spain was weak, could have tolerated a Spanish Louisiana. But to have powerful France as a next-door neighbor was

a serious matter. The U.S. threatened to join her old enemy England and move against the French. Since Napoleon was trying to weaken England by isolating her from her allies, the American threat if carried out would defeat his strategy. In 1803, he offered to sell Louisiana to the United States for \$15 million. In one stroke, he gave America mastery of most of the continent and saved his own grand design for Europe. "This accession of territory," Napoleon said, "affirms forever the power of the United States, and I have just given England a maritime rival that sooner or later will lay low her pride."



NORTH



MAP



PARK REGULATIONS

- change of weapons
- disturb prohibited
- confine pets put litter in its place
- leash be
- observe speed moderate or others
- limits required for groups of more than 50
- stay on roads required for overnight or more than 14-day camping
- camp where designated
- camping permitted
- camping permitted
- confine fires required for overnight or more than 14-day camping
- fireplaces required
- extinguish all fires
- preserve required where posted
- natural features

This recreation area is a public facility. If you are discriminated against, call Human Rights Division, Helena 449-2884, collect. (Summary of the rules found in RULE 12-26(1), S2600 PUBLIC USE REGULATIONS of the Montana Administrative Code.)

LEGEND

- Fishing Access
- Rest Rooms
- Historical Display or Viewpoint Trails